

2811

NOV 08 1988
#3

CREOLE AND GULF COAST COTTAGES IN BALDWIN COUNTY

Owner: Jerry W. Roberts
118 Magnolia Avenue
Fairhope, Al. 36532

Historic Name: Hamner House

Common Name: Roberts House

Location: South side Oak Road off County Road 6, Bon Secour

Verbal Boundary Description:

Begin at a point 180 feet northwest of a dirt road located 399 feet northwest of the curve in County Road 6. Thence proceed northwest 130 feet to a point, thence southwest 122 feet to a point, thence northwest 400 feet to the Bon Secour River, thence southwest 75 feet to a point, thence southeast 530 feet to a point, thence northeast 190 feet to the point of beginning.

Acreage: 1.3

UTM: A-16/431/970/3354/120

Date of Construction: c. 1885

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance

Criterion C-Architecture:

The Hamner-Roberts House is significant as a relatively unaltered, full sized Gulf Coast Cottage. The gable roof, recessed porch and central hall are classic features of the style as is the five bay facade, a rarity on the inland examples.

Integrity:

The Roberts House retains its integrity of location, materials and design. The most evident alteration is the ten foot pilings which replace the original, three foot brick pier foundation. These pilings are in accordance with flood control ordinances in the area. Exterior alterations involve the removal of the chimney (east side of the house), new balusters, the replacement of 6/6 windows with like examples and replacement of the front door. The front steps and rear deck are recent additions by the present owners.

Interior alterations include a small bath at the rear of the hall and a stairway to the attic in the northwest room. The bath is constructed of beaded board and blends well with the hall. All original walls, ceilings, and floors are present on the first floor. Beaded board ceilings and walls have been installed upstairs over previously exposed trusswork. Six panel solid wood doors are new, as are the kitchen cabinets. The original mantel was removed with the chimney.

Description:

The Roberts House is a one and a half story, frame, five by three bay Gulf Coast Cottage raised on wooden pilings. Exterior materials include a drop sided facade, clap-boarded sides and board and batten across the rear. The house exhibits such features of the Gulf Coast Cottage style as a gable roof to the sides (standing seam tin) recessed porch with turned posts and balusters and central hall. The multi-light front door has

sidelights and a transom and 6/6 windows are employed all around the first floor with 9/9 windows in the half story. The rear deck and front steps are recent additions.

The basic plan includes two rooms on either side of the central hall with a full attic above. The hall is of beaded board construction, all first floor rooms are flush tongue and groove. The attic space has been partitioned into two rooms and a bath. Ceilings are beaded board and walls sheetrocked in this space.

Historical Summary:

The Hamner-Roberts House was constructed by one Will C. Hamner, who acquired the land in 1881. Hamner sold the property in 1896 to Drewsilla Roberson. The original lot, almost fifty acres, was subdivided and sold over the years. The original house and a 1.3 acre plot was purchased in 1982 by Jerry and Carolyn Roberts.

Contributing Building 1

